### **GUYANA CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (CANADA) INC.**

805 Middlefield Road, Unit 5, Scarborough, ON M1V 4Z6 -- Tel. No. 416-293-8622

Website: http://www.gcccanada.org Email: gcccaninc@gmail.com Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/GuyanaChristianCharities

Registration No. 89096-5643-RR0001

GSYANA CHRISTIES (CANADA)

VOLUME 61

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### Mercy Hospital is now certified to ISO 9001 Quality Management System

October 2021

St Joseph Mercy Hospital has received the prestigious International Organization for Standardization 9001 (ISO) award. ISO develops standards to ensure the high quality and consistency of products, services and systems across industries and borders. ISO 9001 is the internationally recognized standard for a quality management system (QMS), developed and published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).



Members of the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Board and Quality Management Team

"The ISO 9001 standard is one that is based on providing accurate, reliable and consistent quality of service to the customers, and in this case, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital – their scope includes the delivery of patient care services. And that says it's all of the service provided by this health care institution, and also the Mercy Resident Care Centre". This marks an astounding accomplishment for the medical institution as it continues to improve its services to serve the population.

Chairman of Mercy Hospital Mr. Carlton Joao congratulated the entire Mercy Team on this achievement and noted that not only is Mercy ISO 9001 certified, Mercy staff are 100% vaccinated and Mercy is also a Ministry of Health certified COVID-19 vaccination centre where all vaccinations are free.

The institution was involved in a month of activities marking its 76th anniversary.

### **OUR MISSION**

Guyana Christian Charities

(Canada) Inc.
is a volunteer,
non-profit charitable
organization, registered in
Canada, dedicated to providing
aid and assistance to
Guyanese
organizations, individuals
and others in need

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### PRESIDENT'S **M**ESSAGE

Greetings to all of our readers!

rist of all, I hope that you and your loved ones continue to stay safe during this pandemic. It has truly been challenging for all of us in one way or other and who would have thought that in the fall of 2021 we would still be in the same predicament. It is hard to believe that every time we see a light at the end of the tunnel and look forward to the world getting back to normalcy, there seem to be one set back after another. On the bright side, I believe that this is a life lesson for us all and I also hope that this experience will bring positive change for all of us in this beautiful universe. We can only look to a brighter future.

**W**e announce again with great disappointment that Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. (GCC) had to cancel all of its fund raising events again this year and there is no predicting what next year will bring for us. These fund raising events give us the ability to assist our fellow Guyanese in so many ways. GCC rely on funds raised from these events to pay for shipping containers of much needed items to Guyana. For example, we recently shipped a 40 foot container with wheelchairs, beds for the hospitals and items for the orphanage. We currently have enough items for another container but we are running short on funds for shipping costs. This is not the predicament we expected to be in.

We would like to send our sincere gratitude to those of you who continue to donate in one way or other. These donations are greatly appreciated and we cannot thank you enough. We look forward to your continued support as it is needed more now than ever before.

**W**e would also like to thank our packers who continue to work tirelessly to make it possible for us to get containers of much needed items ready for shipping. They have to pick up, sort and prepare these items. Some of these items, for example, the hospital beds can be a challenge because of size and weight. We applaud our packers once again. We would also like to thank our volunteers. many of whom have been reaching out to find out if they are needed for anything. We hope that we can say yes to them in the near future.

Congrats to Jacobus R. (Jimmy) Carrega, one of GCC's initial members who celebrated his 96th birthday this year. Jim has been a long-time member of GCC and although not active at this point in time we are happy to note that his name is still on our roster! BEST WISHES JIM. Keep well!!

A special thank you to everyone involved in making this Newsletter possible. You are all appreciated.

In closing, I would like to say thank you again to everyone for your continued support and wish you and your families God's blessings and all the very best of health and happiness.

Sincerely.

**Dexter Gonsalves** 

**P**resident





#### **Kumar Singh**

Our volunteers braved the covid-19 epidemic to continue their collection of donations for shipment to assist the less fortunate people across all regions in Guyana. Many of our volunteers took these items to their homes to sort, pack, and label them appropriately for shipment. Because of the dedication of these members, GCC was able to load and ship a 40 ft. container with 739 packages on Vessel Taipei Trader. This vessel was due to arrive in Guyana on September 21, 2021.

The container included used clothing, bicycles, wheelchairs, hospital beds, medical supplies, books, food-stuff, household equipment and supplies, school supplies, games and toys.

**M**any thanks to all our donors who continue to be generous with their donations. Thanks also to our volunteers who freely give their time and labor to pick up these donations, sometimes out of the city. They load and unload heavy articles e.g. hospital beds, wheelchairs, etc. and again transport them to the shipper and load the container.

Our fund-raising activities were all cancelled because of Covid-19. To meet the cost of this shipment, GCC had to reach into our reserves. Thanks to our supporters who continue to make financial donations which enable us to continue our charitable activities to help these less fortunate folks across Guyana and other places.

If you have items to donate, kindly call one of the persons listed below to arrange a pick-up.

> Anne-Marie Reigber 416-755-6958 Stephen Choo-Wing 905-420-2789 **Dexter Gonsalves** 416-293-8622 **Kumar Singh** 416-498-9962

Keep Safe!

Best Wishes, Good Health and Happiness for 2022.

There are certain life lessons that you can only learn in the struggle."

- Idowu Koyenikan

# Congratulations



**C**ongratulations to Mr. Chris Fernandes, Chairman of the Board of Governors of St. Stanislaus College and Chairman of the John Fernandes Group of Companies, on receiving:

- the Golden Arrow of Achievement (A.A.) and the Cacique Crown of Honour for his service in the field of business and commerce in Guyana. It is the second highest award in the Order of Service; and given to any citizen of Guyana who has "rendered service of an exceptionally high quality in the public service, social and voluntary services, industry or trade unions, or in any other area of public service, or achieved excellence of national or international standing and recognition in the arts, professions, sciences or sport or in any other area of activity or to institutions, organizations, corporations or a group of people who have made substantial contributions to the national economy, for achievements of a significant advance resulting in increased efficiency, for applying technology to production or development process in industry, or other significant achievements and contributions to national development".
- an award with an artwork, called 'El Dorado's Mirror', done by distinguished Guyanese artist, Stanley Greaves for his long standing service to St Stanislaus College. The artwork is part of a series of exhibition that was on show at the OAS Gallery in Washington DC as part of Guyana's Republic anniversary celebration.

Chris, a former student of St Stanislaus College, introduced hockey at the school in the 1970s and moulded a successful team which won all competitions locally. He has been serving and giving back to ensure the school uphold its distinguished standard of excellence and has served in varied capacities. He was appointed:

- the Chairman of the Board of Governors in 2005 for the past 15 years;
- a member of the school's Farm Committee and later the chairman
  of the committee some 42 years ago; he continues to hold this post
  today. According to Fernandes, the school's farm is capable of
  generating some \$5 million per year and this is used to assist in
  the school's development.

In a speech during the St. Stanislaus' presentation, President Ali pointed out that Chris' father was instrumental in organizing the Old Boys Association to raise funds for the school. He assured the school of his support and stated that "The difference between Saints and many other schools is that when you exit Saints, you exit as a well-rounded individual. It tells a story of an institution that was supported, a pillar of that support is Chris Fernandes." He also iterated that the Fernandes' family has made tremendous contributions to Guyana's development and that the recognition was well deserved.

The Head of State and several other former members of the school, including Fernandes' son David, were joined via Zoom by members of the Toronto Association for the presentation.

The foundation stones for a balanced success are honesty, character, integrity, faith, love, and loyalty."

Zig Ziglar



Volunteers are special people who make important things happen. Congratulations and a heartfelt "Thank You" to our team of Volunteers and Supporters who diligently work to enrich the lives of others.

"People who volunteer tend to have higher self-esteem, psychological well-being, and happiness"

Whatever the motive, volunteering improves the health, happiness, confidence and in most cases, it makes a positive impact on the community as a whole.

Youths who volunteer are more likely to grow up to be adults who will volunteer.

Dedicating your time as a volunteer helps you make new friends, expand your network, and boost your social skills.

#### BE A PART OF GCC'S VOLUNTEERS!

#### ... STUDENT OR ADULT...

### New Volunteers are welcome!

There is always a need for more volunteers in various areas. There are many opportunities for all age groups, including youth/students.

Also....Join some of our seasoned volunteers and turn your spare time into social good....and at the same time.... Learn the skills and recipes of a special item/s you might want to prepare for family, friends or yourself.

As a Volunteer, you will enjoy the fulfillment of giving to your community, help infuse new ideas and solutions to existing activities and make a difference in the lives of many.

Please call... Dexter Gonsalves 416-293-8622...or

Kumar Singh 416-498-9962

for further information







Rev. John

The impact of GCC's financial contributions for my volunteer efforts cannot be measured in dollars. GCC has significantly improved nursing education and practice throughout the entire country in Guyana... and beyond.

You have participated with other partners in the development of a Bachelor of Science Nursing and a Master's of Science Nursing at University of Guyana.

You have provided so many items for the School of Nursing over the 20 years; here are some of them:

- Textbooks in Psychology, Sociology, Ethics and Anatomy.
- Overhead projectors and screens for the two classrooms to assist teaching with PowerPoint Presentations and Educational Videos.
- Several laser printers and paper, for the faculty and students.
- Support for numerous educational field trips, e.g., to the National Psychiatric Hospital in New Amsterdam.
- A large part of the costs of improving the flooring in the classroom, raising the floors up so that they don't get flooded; obtain all the student desks and chairs from a Guyanese manufacturer; and installing a collapsible wall between the classrooms.
- Last year you assisted two faculty members to attend a conference at the University of Delaware to improve their teaching skills.

For the past ten years you have supplied computer tablets for the first year students so they could succeed at internet based learning. Below is a picture of the 2021 Students with their computers.





**N**urse Roberta Binda is the lead faculty for the PBL Course. She says, "The students of batch 74 are all thankful for their tablets. These are indispensable tools for learning for which many of these students would not be able to find the money for presently. Students will use the tablets to carry out research for PBL, complete assignments and even keep in touch with Tutors and other students to collaborate on projects and group work.

One student who is a single mother is especially grateful; not only would she not be able to afford a tablet, she doesn't have internet access at home. At present she is relying on the internet at school to complete her work."



**D**irector of the School of Nursing, Elsie Asabere speaks about the value of the computers.

"On behalf of the entire faculty and the students of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, I would like to express our profound gratitude for the tablets donated to the freshmen students.

The tablets come in handy for all the students as they facilitate learning. The Problem Based Learning approach has been introduced to this school and such equipment is needed to be able to do the research.

**U**nfortunately, majority of the students are not in the position to acquire it, so receiving the tablets lifts a huge burden off them. They are beneficial for the other subjects as well.

**T**hank you for the support and for thinking about others".

There is more... and for me the best part. Your commitment has provided:

 a confidence knowing that many have gone on to University Degrees in Nursing, Pharmacy, Medicine and Physiotherapy.

**M**any Mercy hospital graduates are now in leadership positions and advanced practice units such as Intensive Care, Cardiac Care and Midwifery throughout Guyana, and the Caribbean, England, United States and Canada [e.g., Scarborough].

And through your support of John Bosco and St. Ann's, at least six students have gone on to get their RN from Mercy hospital. In the present first year class there is the newest St Ann's nurse to be Savitree Mahase.

**G**CC Members: you have done a great job... and there is still more to do... Please know your contribution is adding to the success of a whole country.

I am sure that GCC's Treasurer, Richard Gomes, won't be thrilled with me. He would want to stress that the money isn't the most important contribution. You have given Spiritual Gifts: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge and piety...

I have many students tell me that they have never received such an expensive gift as the computers...And when they graduate, they tell me the most important gift was, knowing that there were people who cared about them.

Each of us has the power to inspire or depress, to lift others or to push them down. Wilferd Peterson

### WITH SYMPATHY Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord

Members would like to express their sympathy to the families of members, volunteers, donors, supporters and friends of GCC, who have passed since our last newsletter.

Sydney Norman Abdool

Doreen De Freitas (Guyana) Robert Bobby Fenandes (Guyana)

Dr. Abraham Augustus Clemwood Fung-A-Fat (Billy) (Guyana)

Sheila Gomes

Jerry Gouveia (Guyana)

Claude Henriques

Max Jardim (Jamaica)

Shelly Lopes

Sonia Perreia

Agnes Ralph

Anthony (Tony) Leca

John Andrew Quail

Kirk Upolimer

The families of our deceased brothers and sisters thank you for your prayers and expressions of sympathy.

Sincere thanks to those who listed Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. to receive donations in lieu of flowers.

May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace

### Wish



### List

#### PLEASE HELP US OUT WITH YOUR DONATIONS!!!

Trolleys and Toaster	Heavy Duty Blender & Processor
Hair - Dryer & Cutting Machines	Colored sheets
Mattresses & Sleeping bags	Mattress covers (rubber)
Industrial mop and buckets	Gardening Tools
Clothing children, teenagers (boys and girls) & adults	Crutches, wheel chairs, bikes
School supplies & Permanent Markers	Pampers and/or Depends or substitute
Bats & balls, footballs, Rackets & balls	Footwear
Board games - Monopoly, cards, dominoes, other games	Knitting thread - assorted colors
Embroidery thread (red, pink, yellow, green, blue, black, brown, mauve)	Fabric & oil paint (red, blue, yellow, white),
,	& artist brush
Fabric for sewing (Tetrex white, blue, red, white, pink, yellow, green plaid & figured)	TV (in good condition)
Beds	Canned food: peas, channa

### "Four Lessons We Should Learn From The Pandemic"

Contributor George Kell

- (1) Human history and natural history can no longer be separated – human health and the health of the planet go together
- (2) Prevention is better than cure -.....we must learn to listen to science
- (3) Global threats need global collaboration
- (4) The pivotal role of the private sector

"Never lose hope. Storms make people stronger and never last forever."

- Roy T. Bennett.



Please be advised ..... **Guyana Book Foundation received** the four boxes of books sent. We are extremely grateful...do apologise for not responding last November when another set of books were sent. The Foundation was closed for three months ....due to the pandemic. Our building was also broken into and robbed late last year of all their equipment and other valuables. We subsequently had three other times of persons breaking into the building. .. recovered and are grateful no one was injured. We would welcome books for the coming year if this is possible. The books this year and last year were donated to Region 3 High Needs schools for our Education Month project 2021. Thank you once again. **Deborah Ramotar-Skeete Administrative Coordinator, Guyana Book Foundation** 

Thanks a whole lot on behalf of all Guyanese for all that you folks continue to do to make life in your home country a little better. Please convey our sincere thanks to all concerned. JFL ... delivered the packages to Saints and the Dharam Shala as well. Be careful and stay safe. *Chris Fernandes, JFL* 

Please accept our sincere thanks and appreciation for the generous donation of Medical Supplies towards the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. We are particularly grateful for the donation of the three patient lift devices. These devices will be welcomed by both Staff and Residents at the Mercy Resident Care facility. Your Committee's support and generosity will help us to improve our capacity of caring for our patients and also for the elderly Residents at our Mercy Resident Care Home. God bless you for partnering with St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in taking care of the people of Guyana. Thank you once again. *Enoch W. Gaskin, Chief Executive Officer, SJMH.* 



Brian Fredericks, B.A.

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### Do you know.....

You can request that your United Way contributions be specifically designated to Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. – Kindly contact your Human Resources or Personnel Department. Thanks!





- Q: Who were the original inhabitants of Guyana?
- A: Guyana was originally inhabited by tribes of Amerindians such as the Lokono (Arawak), Kalina (Carib), and Warao, who were mainly hunters and fishermen.
- Q: Why is Guyana one of the most unique countries?
- A: Guyana is the only nation state of the Commonwealth of Nations on the mainland of South America. Despite neighboring countries speaking Spanish, Guyana has maintained English as its national language making it a country that really stands out in South America. Despite technically having the largest landmass of all the Caribbean countries, Guyana still has one of the smallest populations.
- Q: What are some interesting facts about Guyanese Food?
- A: Guyanese cuisine is very similar to the rest of the Anglo Caribbean. The food reflects the ethnic makeup of the country and its colonial history, and includes Ethnic groups of African, Creole, East Indian, Portuguese, Amerindian, Chinese and European (mostly British) influences and dishes.
- Q: What makes Guyana an interesting place to visit?
- A: This small South American country of Guyana is a fascinating place full of mysteries. The country's varied landscapes, rich and unique flora and fauna, and diverse cultures attract tourists from across the world.

There are many species of flora and fauna exist in the rainforests of Guyana including several that are unknown to humans. Every year, new species are discovered in these forests. The unique ecosystem, the mystery associated with these forests, and the undiscovered life forms residing there have attracted scientists from across the world to Guyana

Conan Doyle's "The Lost World" Is Based On Guyana's Landscapes -- It was the tepui landscape of Guyana that inspired Arthur Conan Doyle to write his novel "The Lost World" in 1912. A tepui is a table-top mountain that usually does not exist as a continuous chain but as isolated entities. The relative isolation of such tepuis allows unique flora and fauna to flourish on their surface.



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## **Upcoming Events**

### **Come Join us and Enjoy .....Our yearly Events**

Due to the Pandemic, GCC's usual events for 2021,

- the "Valentine Dance";
- the "Spring Dance";
- the "Fall Dance"; and
- the "Annual Bake & Food Sale"

were all cancelled to ensure the safety of all.



### Please Note:

GCC plans to have a Fundraiser the early part of the New Year.

(besides its <u>usual</u> Fundraising Events)



You

will be

notified

when

these

events

will

occur

Valentine Dinner & Dance Saturday, February 2022 @ 7.30 p.m. St. Peter & Paul Banquet Hall 231 Milner Avenue, Scarborough, ON (Entrance on Milner Ave. – north of Hwy)

**Spring Dance** 

Saturday, May 2022 @ 7.30 p.m. Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex 1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering (Between Liverpool & Brock Rds.) South of Highway

**Fall Dance** 

Saturday, September 2022 @ 7.30 p.m. Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex

1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering (Between Liverpool & Brock Rds.)

South of Highway 2

Secure your Tickets for our dances early

Rahana Khan 416-540-5255 Mike Gonsalves 416-420-0565 Dexter Gonsalves 905-428-3883 Dennis Choy 905-839-0434 289-314-6888 Laureen Knight

or.... anv GCC member or....

email: gcccaninc@gmail.com Annual Bake & Food Sale

**Free Admission** SUNDAY OCTOBER 2022

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Chestnut Hill Developments

Recreation Complex 1867 Valley Farm Road Pickering (Between Liverpool & Brock Rds.)

South of Highway 2

Please contact: Pansy Hsan 416-937-1783 **New Donors** 



#### telpina ttano Giveat

THREE EASY WAYS YOU CAN HELP Guyana Christian Charities ....

- 1. PRAY FOR OUR CONTINUED SURVIVAL;
- 2. Volunteer with ONE of our many AREAS of NEED;
- 3. SUPPORT US financially OUR ORGANIZATION DEPENDS ON YOUR GENEROSITY.

✓ YE	<b>S!</b> 7	WANT	TO	HELP
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☐ GENERAL	☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other ☐ GCC-BERNARD GONSALVES MEMORIAL FU ☐ St. JOSEPH MERCY HOSPTIAL FUND	INE
I Name		
Address		
City	Postal Code	
email:	Phone:	_

### Receipts are issued for donations of \$20 and over

Your donation of \$10.00 or more is tax-deductible. A receipt will be mailed, if so requested. CHARITABLE NO. 89096-5643-RR0001. Please send your cheque & email with this form to:

Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc. 805 Middlefield Road, Unit 5, Scarborough ON M1V 4Z6 **Donations** may also be made through our Website: http://www.gcccanada.org (through CanadaHelps.org)

### NEWSI ETTED MAILING LIST

	☐ I would like to be on your Newsletter Mailing ☐ email List ☐ My address has been changed
ľ	Name
ı	Address
١.	Postal Code
ľ	email:Phone:
ı	Mail form to: Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.
L	805 Middlefield Road, Unit 5, Scarborough ON M1V 4Z6
•	COULD VOU HELD COO?

☐ Yes, I would like t☐ Yes, I wish to assis☐ Yes, I would like☐ BAKE & FOOD S	Yes, I wish to become a member of your organization Yes, I would like to join the YOUTH COMMITTEE Yes, I wish to assist with donation of ITEMS/SUPPLIES Yes, I would like to help with the:  BAKE & FOOD SALE D PACKING for shipments		
☐ DANCES	☐ TRANSPORTING donated items		
Name			
Address			
	Postal Code		
email	Phone		
Mail form to: Guyana Christian Charities (Canada) Inc.			

805 Middlefield Road, Unit 5, Scarborough ON M1V 4Z6 THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT

### CALL US TO ADVERTISE

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Phone: 416-293-8622

Email: dexterg3345@gmail.com





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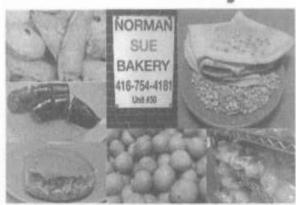
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